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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly decisions 44/442 of 21 December 1989 and 45/450 of 20 December 1991, requesting the Secretary-General to continue to submit to it annual reports on standards of accommodation for air travel. It covers the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994. As also requested by the General Assembly in its decision 40/455 of 18 December 1985 and its resolution 45/249 A, section XIII, of 21 December 1990, respectively, information is included on all expenditures by the United Nations for first-class air travel and on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions have been made for first-class air travel.

2. During the period under review, standards of accommodation for air travel were governed by General Assembly resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, in which the Assembly provided that all individuals, with the exception of the Secretary-General and the heads of delegations of the least developed countries to regular, special or emergency special sessions of the Assembly, whose travel was financed by United Nations organizations and programmes and who had been previously entitled to first-class accommodation, would be required to travel at the class immediately below first class. In the same resolution, the Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class travel on a case-by-case basis.

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II. DELEGATION TRAVEL

3. As indicated in paragraph 2, General Assembly resolution 42/214 limits the payment of first-class accommodation by air to one representative of each Member State designated as a least developed country attending regular, special or emergency special sessions of the Assembly. Table 1 sets out the expenditures arising from payment of such travel.

Table 1. First-class travel with respect to representatives of Member States attending the General Assembly

(1 July 1993-30 June 1994)

	No. of journeys	Total cost of travel $
Forty-eighth session of the General Assembly	31	151 400
Total	31	151 400

III. EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4. As stated above, the General Assembly in its resolution 42/214 authorized the Secretary-General to exercise his discretion in making exceptions to allow first-class air travel on a case-by-case basis. In addition, business-class travel by air may be authorized by the Secretary-General in certain circumstances, in accordance with administrative instruction ST/AI/249/Rev.3 of 29 March 1989.

5. Generally, in reviewing cases that may warrant an exception, the Secretary-General takes into consideration the following circumstances:

(a) A medical condition may exist necessitating a level of comfort not available in the normal standard of accommodation to which the traveller is entitled. Such cases are referred to the United Nations Medical Director for recommendation. Exceptions may also be granted when a traveller is of an advanced age and the normal standard of travel would have a detrimental effect on the traveller's health;

(b) The normal standard of accommodation is not available and, owing to the exigencies of the service, the traveller is required to travel on a particular date. Cases also arise where accommodation at the normal entitlement is not available and the cost of daily subsistence allowance, whilst waiting for the next available seat, would be greater than the higher standard of travel;

(c) The traveller is considered an eminent person, such as prominent figures in political, humanitarian, cultural or academic areas;

(d) Where the traveller is a prominent person who is donating his or her services free of charge to the Organization, and, in some cases, at a loss of personal income, such individuals may be accorded the standard of accommodation that they normally use when travelling;

(e) The traveller, after completing a full day of work, is required to travel through the night in order to resume work, attend meetings or present a paper at another location on the following morning or immediately upon arrival. Where such cases involve arduous journeys, it has been deemed reasonable that the standard of accommodation accorded to the traveller should provide the best rest possible while travelling, or provide conditions most conducive to work while flying, or both.

6. In respect of exceptions to air travel authorized during the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 owing to the circumstances referred to in paragraph 5 above, the present report provides, in annexes I to V, detailed information as to the additional cost of, and reasons for, such exceptions.

7. For travel during the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994, the Secretary-General exercised his discretion by authorizing, as an exception, 40 cases of first-class air travel. In addition, during the same period, the Secretary-General authorized business-class travel by air as an exception to the standards of accommodation in 56 cases.

8. It should be noted that, during the period under review, the Secretary-General or his designated representative was accompanied on all trips by a personal aide/security officer who travelled by air in first class or business class.

9. For the period from 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994, the total additional cost incurred by the Organization was $97,017. This compares with a total additional cost of $152,187 (adjusted - see para. 11 below) for the previous reporting period.

10. For purposes of comparison, tables 2 and 3 provide a summary, by category, of all exceptions granted during the present and previous reporting periods. It will be noted that there has been a decrease of one third in the total number of exceptions authorized, while the additional cost involved declined by 36 per cent.

11. In the context of monitoring adherence to the standards of accommodation for air travel, cases were identified in which a higher standard of air travel was undertaken than the normal entitlement, for which no exception had been sought or granted. In a number of these cases, subsequent ex post facto approval was sought for an exception to the standards of accommodation. In this regard, details of the eight exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General for the previous reporting period are outlined in annex V to the present report.

Table 2. Summary of exceptions

(1 July 1993-30 June 1994)

Reasons for exceptions	First class		Business class		Total	
	No. of trips	Additional cost $	No. of trips	Additional cost $	No. of trips	Additional cost $
Medical condition or advanced age	7	8 330	7	7 834	14	16 164
Regular standard of accommodation not available	7	1 709	8	913	15	2 622
Eminent persons	13	22 529	37	20 581	50	43 110
Donating services free of charge to the Organization	3	11 280	3	1 895	6	13 175
Arduous journeys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal aides/ security officer	10	20 434	1	1 555	11	21 989
Total	40	64 282	56	32 778	96	97 060

Table 3. Summary of exceptions

(1 July 1992-30 June 1993) a/

Reasons for exceptions	First class		Business class		Total	
	No. of trips	Additional cost $	No. of trips	Additional cost $	No. of trips	Additional cost $
Medical condition or advanced age	15	30 842	10	9 970	25	40 812
Regular standard of accommodation not available	14	3 857	17	2 913	31	6 770
Eminent persons	19	30 712	46	25 617	65	56 329
Donating services free of charge to the Organization	2	6 926	1	217	3	7 143
Arduous journeys	9	21 324	0	0	9	21 324
Personal aides/ security officer	9	18 766	1	1 043	10	19 809
Total	68	112 427	75	39 760	143	152 187

a/ Adjusted for ex post facto authorizations.

Annex I

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED OWING TO MEDICAL CONDITION OR ADVANCED AGE

(1 July 1993-30 June 1994)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A. First class		
Chairman, Committee on Contributions	Lahore/Karachi/Amsterdam/ Vienna/Amsterdam/New York/ Amsterdam/Paris/Geneva/ Amsterdam/Karachi	1 844
Chairman, Committee on Contributions	Lahore/Karachi/Amsterdam/ London/Amsterdam/New York/ Paris/Karachi	1 447
Staff member, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York/Entebbe/Addis Ababa/ Frankfurt/New York	1 248
Programme Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Sanaa/Amman/Sanaa	191
Staff member, UNDP	New York/Oslo/New York	800
Member, United Nations Administrative Tribunal	Delhi/New York/Delhi	2 000
Member, United Nations Administrative Tribunal	Delhi/Geneva/Delhi	800
Total A		8 330
B. Business class		
Staff member, Department for Development Support and Management Services	New York/Rome/Paris/New York	718
Staff member, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	New York/Geneva/Turin/Geneva/ New York	1 484
Staff member, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	New York/Geneva/New York	1 044

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
Staff member, Department of Political Affairs	New York/Vienna/Dakar/New York	538
Staff member, Department of Political Affairs	New York/Geneva/New York	854
Staff member, Department of Political Affairs	New York/Vienna/Geneva/New York	1 690
Staff member, Department of Political Affairs	New York/London/New York	1 506
Total B		7 834
Grand total A and B		16 164

Annex II

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED WHEN THE REGULAR STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE

(1 July 1993-30 June 1994)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
A. First class		
Staff member, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Moscow/Ulan Bator/...	333
Chairman, Council of the United Nations University	New York/Bridgetown/New York	122
Director of Operational Support, UNHCR	.../Nairobi/Dar es Salaam/...	205
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Executive Office of the Secretary-General	.../Brunei/Dubai/...	372
Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	New York/Mexico City/New York	410
Staff member, UNDP	.../Bridgetown/Kingston/...	173
Staff member, UNHCR	.../Nairobi/Dar es Salaam/...	94
Total A		1 709
B. Business class		
Staff member, UNHCR	Hong Kong/Bangkok/Hong Kong	84
Staff member, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	.../Lusaka/Nairobi/...	43
Staff member, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	.../Cairo/Nairobi	64
Staff member, United Nations Information Centre	.../Libreville/Paris	208

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
Staff member, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Geneva/Paris/Ouagadougou/...	223
Staff member, United Nations Information Centre	Tokyo/Seoul/...	41
Staff member, ECA	Addis Ababa/Nairobi/...	27
Staff member, UNCTAD	Geneva/Paris/Ouagadougou/...	223
Total B		913
Grand total A and B		2 622

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex III

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR EMINENT PERSONS

(1 July 1993-30 June 1994)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
A. First class		
(i) Sasakawa Prize Selection Committee		
Member Selection Committee	Bogota/Geneva/Bogota	1 532
Member, Selection Committee	London/Geneva/London	334
Representative of Mr. R. Sasakawa	Tokyo/Geneva/Tokyo	5 448
Member, Selection Committee	Nairobi/Geneva/Nairobi	988
Member, Selection Committee	Washington/Geneva/Washington	2 350
Total (i)		10 652
(ii) Latin American and Caribbean Commission on Development and Environment		
Former President of Costa Rica	San Jose/New York/San Jose	387
Nobel Peace Prize Winner	Guatemala/New York/Guatemala	483
Former President of Colombia	Bogota/New York/Bogota	546
Former Secretary-General of the United Nations	Lima/New York/Lima	209
Total (ii)		1 625

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
(iii) Meeting of Eminent Persons in conjunction with the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States		
President of Maldives	Male/London/Bridgetown/London/ Singapore/Male	3 375
High Commissioner of Western Samoa to New Zealand	Wellington/Bridgetown/New York/ Wellington	4 825
Adviser to the Delegation of Japan to the Global Conference	New York/Bridgetown/New York	552
Member of Parliament, Vanuatu	Vanuatu/Bridgetown/Vanuatu	1 500
Total (iii)		10 252
Total A		22 525
B. Business class		
(i) International Encounter for Journalists on the Question of Palestine and Seminar on Palestinian Trade and Investment Needs		
Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations and Member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	New York/Copenhagen/Paris/ New York	471
Total (i)		471

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
(ii) High-level Advisory Group on the World Summit for Social Development		
Former Ambassador of Mexico to Cairo	Mexico City/New York/Mexico City	600
Député-Bourgmestre, Member of the European Parliament	Brussels/Washington/.../ Brussels	116
Head of the Economic and Social Policy Department, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	Brussels/New York/.../Brussels	116
Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University, United States of America	Boston/New York/Boston	174
President, Overseas Development Council, United States of America	Washington/New York/Washington	174
Total (ii)		1 180
(iii) World Hearings on Development		
Ambassador of France to the Western European Union	Brussels/New York/Brussels	116
Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	Paris/New York/Paris	1 034
Total (iii)		1 150

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
(iv) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/World Bank Seminar on East/ South-east Asian Growth Experience		
Vice-Chairman, International Management Association of Japan, Inc.	Tokyo/Bangkok/Tokyo	324
President, Institute for Global Economics	Seoul/Bangkok/Seoul	202
Vice-Chairman, Long-term Credit Bank	Tokyo/Bangkok/Tokyo	324
Total (iv)		850
(v) High-level Advisory Board of the Fourth World Conference on Women		
Senate President Pro-Tempore and Chairperson, Committee on Education, Art and Culture, the Philippines	New York/Geneva/Manila	984
Chairperson, National Committee for Women, Jordan	Amman/Geneva/Amman	174
Total (v)		1 158
(vi) Advisory Board of the Fiftieth Anniversary		
Former Prime Minister of Japan	Tokyo/Geneva/Tokyo	2 351
Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania	Dar es Salaam/Geneva/ Dar es Salaam	756
Nobel Peace Laureate	Cape Town/Geneva/Cape Town	890
Total (vi)		3 997

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
(vii) Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility		
Director, Programme interdisciplinaire de recherche sur les sciences pour l'energie et les matières premières	Paris/Washington/Paris	1 040
Member of the Italian Toxicology Committee and Professor, Institute of Agricultural Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Milan	Milan/Washington/Milan	517
Total (vii)		1 557
(viii) High-level Personalities on African Development		
Director-General of the International Association against Hunger	Paris/New York/Paris	1 135
Total (viii)		1 135
(ix) Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific		
Minister of Bangladesh	Dhaka/Bangkok/Dhaka	60
Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic	Vientiane/Bangkok/Vientiane	31
Minister of Myanmar	Yangon/Bangkok/Yangon	52
Minister of Nepal	Kathmandu/Bangkok/Kathmandu	72
Total (ix)		215

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
(x) High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development		
Chairman, Council on the Rights of Future Generations; President, The Cousteau Society	Paris/New York/Paris	1 213
Member of Parliament, Sweden	Stockholm/New York/Stockholm	416
Member of Parliament, Sweden	Stockholm/New York/Stockholm	316
President, Zoological Society of London	Geneva/New York/Geneva	644
President, Zoological Society of London	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 044
Member of Congress, Mexico	Mexico/New York/Mexico	252
Chairman of the Board of ANOVA Holding Ltd.; Founder and Chairman, Business Council on Sustainable Development	Geneva/New York/Geneva	644
Chairman of the Board of ANOVA Holding Ltd.; Founder and Chairman, Business Council on Sustainable Development	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 044
President of the Board of the World Economic Foundation; Professor of Business, University of Geneva	Geneva/New York/Geneva	644
President of the Board of the World Economic Foundation; Professor of Business, University of Geneva	Geneva/New York/Geneva	1 044

Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Hydro; former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	Toronto/New York/Toronto	226
President, MacArthur Foundation; Member of the President's Commission on Environmental Quality, United States of America	Chicago/New York/Chicago	213
Total (x)		8 713
(xi) Meeting under the feasibility study by the United Nations University on Agenda 21		
Vice-President, Chinese Academy of Science	Beijing/Tokyo/Beijing	155
Total (xi)		155
Total B		20 581
Grand total A and B		43 110

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.

Annex IV

EXCEPTIONS AUTHORIZED FOR PROMINENT PERSONS DONATING THEIR SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE TO THE ORGANIZATION

(1 July 1993-30 June 1994)

Designation of traveller	Itinerary	Additional cost $
A. First class		
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador	Tokyo/Khartoum/Nairobi/Tokyo	5 714
Artists/Designer, "Peace" stamp	Zurich/New York/Zurich	2 783
Artists/Designer, "Peace" stamp	Zurich/New York/Zurich	2 783
Total A		11 280
B. Business class		
Head, Palestinian Negotiating Team to the Middle East Peace Talks and President, Red Crescent Society, Gaza	Tel Aviv/Copenhagen/Tel Aviv	350
Director of International Studies, Royal Jordanian Scientific Society at Amman	Amman/Copenhagen/Amman	458
Conseiller Principal, Cellule de prospective, Commission de l'Union Européene	Brussels/New York/Brussels	1 087
Total B		1 895
Grand total A and B		13 175

Annex V

EXCEPTIONS RELATING TO PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD

Reason for exception	Designation of traveller	Itinerary a/	Additional cost $
A. First class			
Regular standard of accommodation not available	Staff member, Department of Public Information	Paris/Rabat/...	215
	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	Paris/Rabat/...	215
Total A			430
B. Business class			
(a) Eminent persons	Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria	Paris/New York/ Paris	1 030
Total (a)			1 030
(b) Regular standard of accommodation not available	Staff member, United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA)	.../Johannesburg/ East London	35
	Staff member, UNOMSA	Johannesburg/Cape Town/...	24
	Staff member, UNOMSA	Johannesburg/Cape Town/...	24
	Staff member, UNOMSA	Johannesburg/Cape Town/Durban	48
Total (b)			131
(c) Immediate aide/ security officer accompanying the Secretary-General or his representative	Personal Assistant to Co-Chairman, International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia	London/New York/ London	1 043
Total (c)			1 043
Total B			2 204
Grand total A and B			2 634

a/ The points of ellipses in a given itinerary indicate that some legs of the itinerary were by the regular standard of accommodation and no exception was involved.